

IN THE SPECIFICATION:

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 2, line 5 and ending on page 1, line 10 with the following replacement paragraph:

This patent application is related to concurrently filed patent applications, "Frame Traffic Balancing Across Trunk Groups," by Surya Varanasi_____, filed on _____, October 31, 2003, U.S. Patent Application Serial No. 10/698,851_____, (attorney docket 003.P002); and "Load Balancing in Core-edge Configurations"~~"Frame Traffic Balancing in Core-Edge Configurations,"~~ by Surya Varanasi_____, filed on _____, October 31, 2003, U.S. Patent Application Serial No. 10/699,568_____, (attorney docket 003.P003), both of the foregoing assigned to the assignee of the presently claimed subject matter and hereby incorporated by reference.